

publicly confront the Azerbaijani government over these destabilizing maneuvers would send extremely dangerous signals to Azerbaijan.

Mr. Speaker, the U.S. must take action to condemn Azerbaijan's desperate acts of destructive venue shopping, and we here in this Chamber must do everything that we can to ensure that all parties involved in this conflict make a genuine commitment towards peace and stability. Action on the part of the U.S. must go further than the OSCE joint statement that was released in which the members of the Minsk Group expressed their concern and opposition towards the Azeri resolution. Beyond merely releasing a statement, the U.S. must demonstrate its views by taking a stance and voting against this measure.

I urge the U.S. to forcefully renounce this proposal, secure its retraction and impress upon the Azerbaijani government that it should drop such counterproductive tactics in favor of serious and lasting commitment to the OSCE Minsk Group process.

The OSCE Minsk Group process cannot survive Azerbaijan's destabilizing tactics. Continued tampering with this process will inevitably produce a chain reaction resulting in its demise. We cannot afford to allow Azerbaijan to continue to disrupt the work of the OSCE, which, as my colleagues know, has been recognized by the U.N. itself as the lead arbiter in this conflict.

Finally, it is time for the U.S. to be more forceful with Azerbaijan and to make clear that their tactics are not helpful to a peaceful and just resolution of the Nagorno-Karabagh conflict. Once again, it is imperative, Mr. Speaker, for the U.S. to vote against this U.N. resolution, thereby clearly demonstrating that there are serious consequences to actions that disturb the regional Caucasus peace, security and prosperity.

THANKING MARY HOWARD FOR A LIFETIME OF PUBLIC SERVICE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. WILSON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to thank one of South Carolina's finest ladies, Mary Talbert Howard, for her lifetime of public service.

Mary will conclude her full-time service to the people of South Carolina when she retires at the end of this year. Active in the Lexington, South Carolina, community since 1973, Mary served with my predecessor and mentor, the late Congressman Floyd D. Spence. In 2001, she graciously agreed to stay on as the District Director for the Second Congressional District of South Carolina.

A native of Hartsville in Darlington County, South Carolina, Mary attended the Hartsville schools, Limestone College and graduated from the University

of South Carolina with a BA in education. She began her employment with the late Congressman Floyd Spence in 1981, after successfully serving as Spence for Congress campaign office manager, and she became District Director in 1992. Her responsibilities included representing the Congressman at all events throughout the Second Congressional District, handling of all constituent concerns, meeting with the local and State government officials and attending all local and State civic group meetings.

Mary has been active in the Lexington Women's Club since 1973 and served in many of the officer positions, including president. She also served as district and State legislative chairman for the State Federation of Women's Clubs.

Mary has also served as president of the Riverbanks Zoo Society, as an active member of the Lexington Medical Center Board, as Corresponding Secretary of Friends of the Lexington County Museum, and as a board member of the Lexington Arts Association.

She has been a delegate to the State and county Republican convention since 1980.

Mary is a member of St. Peter's Lutheran Church, where she served on the Worship and Music Committee and is a former Sunday schoolteacher.

Mary is married to Jerry Howard, and they have three children: G.G. Howard Culpepper, Melissa Howard Henshaw and Amy Talbert Howard. She also has two grandchildren, Cate and Jerrod.

In all the years that I have worked with Mary, she has always served with grace and dignity, and I have been extremely honored to have her represent me these last 3 years. She will always be a close, personal friend of the Wilson family, and Roxanne and I wish her and her husband Jerry all the best in their future.

I ask all of my colleagues to join me in thanking Mary Howard for her commitment to serving her community with excellence.

In conclusion, God bless our troops; and we will never forget September 11.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. WALSH. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the subject of my Special Order.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PENCE). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New York?

There was no objection.

HONORING CONGRESSMAN AMO HOUGHTON AND CONGRESSMAN JACK QUINN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New York (Mr. WALSH) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. WALSH. Mr. Speaker, in the rush of events at the end of this session, the New York delegation has attempted to set aside some time to recognize the distinguished careers of two of our colleagues who are retiring at the end of this session. What I intend to do is make a brief statement and then reach out to my colleagues, both sides of the aisle, to give them the opportunity to provide remarks to acknowledge the great service of these two men.

First, our colleague from Corning, New York, AMO HOUGHTON. AMORY HOUGHTON came to the Congress in 1986, was appointed to the Committee on Ways and Means, has served as a subcommittee chairman and has done great work not only on tax policy and health care policy but, also, he has been a dedicated global citizen. He has been involved in Africa and in other troubled places around the world where his gentle, thoughtful approach to problem solving has been respected and has brought great credit to not only to him but to our country.

He has been a great adviser, counselor to me; and his service to our State has been no less than remarkable. We will miss him very, very much. He will leave a tremendous void in our delegation, and we wish him all good health, and a long and enjoyable retirement with his beloved wife Priscilla.

Our other colleague who is completing his career at the end of this session is my good friend JACK QUINN, who represented Buffalo, New York. His home is in Hamburg, New York, where he served as supervisor. He came to the Congress in, I believe, 1992, was appointed to the Committee on Transportation, served as the subcommittee chairman on railroads for an extended period of time and set very important policy regarding our rail lines around the country.

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JACK, as all of us know, has a very personable, delightful personality. He is a hard-working, dedicated family man who always brought joy and laughter wherever he traveled. He is a close personal friend, someone that we all respect, and someone we will all dearly miss as he proceeds into his next iteration, whatever that may be. We all know he will be successful at whatever he does, and we wish him all the best.

To both my colleagues, the gentleman from New York (Mr. HOUGHTON) and the gentleman from New York (Mr. QUINN), we bid them adieu. We know you are not going far away. We hope to see you on a regular basis.

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, the House of Representatives is losing an extraordinary man in Congressman AMO HOUGHTON. He has been my colleague in the House, in the New York Delegation and the Committee on Ways & Means. I have been privileged in every way to be his colleague, as there is no one who more exemplifies public service.

AMO HOUGHTON is of a distinguished and affluent family, yet he is interested in neither